

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-17, 19-21, 23 and 25-28 as amended, remain herein.

The Office Action, Office Action Summary page, states that the Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed September 8, 2004. However, applicants filed a Second Supplemental Amendment on December 2, 2004, which included an amendment to claim 17. Enclosed is a photocopy of this firm's return post card noting filing of the "Second Supplemental Amendment" which card bears the PTO mail room stamp for December 2, 2004.

Applicants appreciate the statements in the Office Action that claims 1, 3-16, 20, 26 and 28 are allowed, and that claims 25 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the independent claim and any intervening claims.

The Office Action mailed June 7, 2004, page 2, first paragraph, stated that claim 18 was objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the independent claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 17 has been amended to recite the subject matter of

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allowable, but now-canceled, claim 18, thereby making claim 17 and claims 19, 21 and 23 allowable.

1. Claims 17, 19, 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Misawa et al. U.S. Patent 5,250,931, Yamagishi U.S. Patent 5,365,091 and Ohtani et al. U.S. Patent 6,271,543.

Claim 17 now recites the subject matter of allowable former claim 18, and should therefore now be allowable, thereby making dependent claims 19, 21 and 23 also allowable, thereby mooting the rejection.

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All claims 1, 3-17, 19-21, 23 and 25-28 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1, 3-17, 19-21, 23 and 25-28 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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9 Feb. 2005
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Attachment: Return postcard

Attorney Docket No.: OGOH:077

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Atty. Docket No. **OGOH:077**
Description: **Second Supplemental Amendment.**

Inventor(s): **Keizaburo KURAMASU et al.**

Title (new cases):

Attorney: **RWP:RNW/mhs** Serial No.:

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